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WOMAN INVOLVED IN SHOOTING INCIDENT IN BASTROP INDICTED BY FEDERAL GRAND JURY ON FIREARMS CHARGES

Shreveport, Louisiana . . . A federal grand jury in Shreveport has returned an indictment charging TANYA MARIE SMITH, age 24, with firearms charges, United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced today.

The indictment charges SMITH with one count of conspiracy to possess firearms by a convicted felon, one count of possession of firearms by a convicted felon, one count of possession of a firearm with an obliterated serial number, one count of possession of a sawed-off shotgun, and two counts of forfeiture of those firearms.

The indictment alleges that on or about August 10, 2007, SMITH, a convicted felon, conspired with others to possess eight firearms illegally.

These charges stem from an incident which occurred in Bastrop, Louisiana, on August 10, 2007, wherein two law enforcement officers were killed and two paramedics wounded. There are state murder charges pending against SMITH in connection with this incident.

An indictment is merely an accusation and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. Defendants are entitled to a presumption of innocence under the law, and the government has the

burden of proving every element of the charges beyond a reasonable doubt.

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

This case is being investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Shreveport Resident Agency, in coordination with the Louisiana State Police, Bastrop Police Department and Ouachita Parish District Attorney's Office, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph G. Jarzabek.

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